



Redeeming Why We Give

Reframing Giving in the Context of God's Creative Mission

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Module I: The Why—Created for A Purpose

1. Three Important Questions to Ask

Part of any good mission statement answers three questions: why, what, & how.

“Why”—The real ‘heart of the matter’. Why motivates, inspires, moves us to show up in a new way, or volunteer to help out at the food pantry, or volunteer at an elementary school reading to kids. Why is the foundation of understanding our purpose.

- Reflect on your “Why”
- What do you do to feel connected with your why?
- How do you choose to/want to fulfill that purpose or goal?

2. Image of God: Disco Globes & Representatives

- Think about the ‘Disco Globe’ from the lesson. It’s created for a purpose—to reflect light. But even more, it’s designed to sparkle & shine everywhere! The Disco Globe on it’s own cannot create light; it is dependent on an external light source to shine.
 - When we think about the love of God as a light source, imagine that you are that Disco Globe, lighting up every room you enter, all day long. Describe how you might be showing up—in your actions, your words, your behavior? How do you think it would feel? And how do you think others might experience you?

- Remembering our design as human “disco globes” requires a good light source, how important is that we are regularly connected to the best light source possible? Why?
- As representatives of God, we literally “carry” God with us everywhere we go. Like when the astronauts planted the American Flag on the moon. It meant something—we were here, and this is who we represent.
 - What are some examples of how you to “represent” God in your every day life? Why is that important?

3. The Big Task & An Apple Incident

At creation, God blessed humans to fulfill The Big Task.

- **Reflecting on the lesson, describe in your own words what The Big Task is. Does it feel challenging or exciting? Or both?**
- **The Apple Incident kicked off a domino effect of sin in humans. They couldn't go back to Eden & they'd have to live with the results, but God's love and purpose never wavered.**
 - **Remember the image of the people with the little apple above their heads, how might we hold onto our “apple incidents” rather than live into our God-given purpose?**
 - **What might we learn about ourselves in that, and what might we learn about God?**



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Reference Material: Our Why – Understanding Our Created Purpose

○ **Genesis 1:1-31 (Creation Account)**

- **Genesis 1:1:** "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."
- **Genesis 1:3:** "And God said, 'Let there be light,' and there was light."
- **Genesis 1:20-21:** "And God said, 'Let the waters swarm with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the expanse of the heavens.' So God created the great sea creatures and every living creature that moves..."
- **Genesis 1:26-27:** "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' So God created man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."
- **Genesis 1:31:** "And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good."

○ **Other Relevant Scriptural Verses**

- **Psalms 19:1:** "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."
- **Isaiah 45:18:** "For thus says the Lord, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): 'I am the Lord, and there is no other.'"
- **John 1:3:** "All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made."
- **Colossians 1:16:** "For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible..."